NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Science Center

Advancing SWFSC's Research at Sea Aboard NOAA's New San Diego-based Fisheries Survey Vessel (FSV-6)

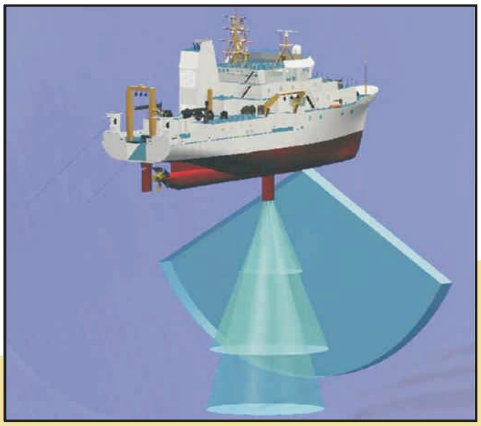
NOAA's newest Fisheries Survey Vessel (FSV-6) is the sixth in a series of the most technologically advanced fisheries vessels in the world. NOAA's FSV-6 will serve the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) and will replace the aged NOAA Ship *David Starr Jordan* which has logged over 1.5 million miles of research surveys for the SWFSC since it's commissioning in 1966. Delivery of FSV-6 to San Diego is expected in 2013. Funding for FSV-6 is provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Supports NOAA's Mission to Manage and Conserve the Nation's Fisheries and Protected Species

NOAA's FSV-6 and her sister ships collect the data required for science-based conservation and management of living marine resources. The new FSV-6 will be equipped with a full suite of modern instrumentation for fisheries and oceanographic research, including advanced navigation systems, multi-frequency acoustic sensors, direct sampling gear and extensive laboratories. These technologies will dramatically improve the SWFSC's ability to conduct surveys for fish, marine mammals and turtles off the west coast of North America and in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. The ship's capabilities will also allow simultaneous collection of data on ecological factors affecting the status of fish and protected species and provide a context for predicting the likely effects of climate change on living marine resources.

Vessel Specifications

- **Stealth operations** - extremely low sound signature reduces reactions of fish to the presence of the ship and enhances signal-to-noise ratio of acoustic sensors.
- **Multi-frequency scientific sounder** - provides ability to conduct acoustic surveys that can distinguish fish types and estimate their biomass.
- **Multi-beam sonar** - provides information on the shape of fish schools, school biomass and sea floor topography.
- **Direct sampling capabilities** - using instrumented trawls, longlines, and plankton nets.
- **Dynamic positioning system** - to accurately hold the vessel in a fixed position.
- **Extensive wet and dry labs** - to provide maximum utilization of every hour at sea.



NOAA Ship FSV-6

Length: 208.6 feet
Breadth: 49.2 feet
Draft: Centerboard Retracted: 20 feet
Centerboard Extended: 30.3 feet
Full load displacement: 2,479 mt
Lightship displacement: 1,840 mt
Speed, Sustained: 14 knots
Speed, Hydro-acoustic survey: 0-11 knots
Endurance: 40 days
Range: 12,000 nm at 12 knots

http://swfsc.noaa.gov